

FEMA Awards Over \$1.2 Million to UMass Memorial Health Care for COVID-19 Costs

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BOSTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$1.2 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc. for the additional costs of operating safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1,215,687 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the health care system in central Massachusetts – headquartered in Worcester and affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School – for steps taken to protect patients, staff and the public between November 2020 and March 2022.

These included contracting for temporary staff for COVID-19 patient medical treatment and care; food service for COVID-19 patient meals during their stay at the hospital; professional facility disinfection and additional cleaning; installation of temporary emergency department bays with plexiglass view windows; and communication service for the new COVID-19 units to communicate with other hospital units as well as coordinate transportation services, staffing, and security services.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist UMass Memorial Health Care, Inc. with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success, and our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided more than \$1.5 billion in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

